

REMARKS

The specification and drawings have been objected to. Claim 1 has been amended to conform with the current specification and drawings to point out that the seal cartridges are retained by the retaining ring. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 7, 10, 12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schaefer. While the device of the Schaefer patent is well known to Applicants having a common assignee, the instant invention represents a substantial advance over such prior art. Contrary to the assertion in the office action, the side seal cartridges 44 and 45 of Schaefer are not held in by his air cap 30 by rather by the threads shown particularly in Figure 2. There is no suggestion as to how one would incorporate such a limitation as claimed.

Claims 8, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaefer asserting that the limitations are a matter of design choice. It is respectfully submitted that such limitations are more than a simple matter of design choice.

Sales of product incorporating the features of the instant invention have exceeded 10,000 units since introduction for a value exceeding \$17,000,000. Such commercial success in view of the many competitive products (of Assignee and others) that preceded the invention have been afforded by greatly increased life and ease of use. This evidence of commercial success was apparently ignored in the Office Action responded to. Accordingly, it is submitted that the limitations in those claims are not obvious and more than a matter of design choice. These facts are further set forth in the declaration to be filed.

Claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaefer in view of Keller. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9 and 11 are patentable both for the limitations contained therein as well as for the limitations of the parent claims.

Claims 13 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaefer in view of Ten Pas. While Ten Pas may indeed disclose a spray gun for fast setting materials, his purpose in doing so is very different from Applicants. Ten Pas discloses his fittings 44 for lubrication (col. 4, lines 30-46) and the passages 20 etc. mentioned do not connect to purge air of any other passages normally filled by mixed material. Applicants, on the other hand, connect the zerk fitting 25 to the purge air passage 8a. This allows the fluid passages in the mix chamber 19 and the front end of the gun to be filled with grease (which mixes with the purge air to prevent setup and crystallization. Such injection will allow the spray gun to be stored overnight without having to be completely cleaned. Such structure or use is nowhere contemplated or suggested in either Schaefer or Ten Pas.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended patentably distinguish over the references of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Douglas B. Farrow
Registration No. 28582
Graco Inc.
PO Box 1441
Minneapolis, MN 55440
(612) 623-6769
dfarrow@graco.com